

ORIGINAL BILL RELATING TO POLITICAL BROADCASTS APPROVED BY THE

SENATE COMMITTEE ON INTERSTATE AND FOREIGN COMMERCE, JULY 15, 1959

86th CONGRESS
1st Session

S. 2424

A B I L L

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 in order to provide that the equal-time provisions with respect to candidates for public office shall not apply to news and other similar programs.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 315(a) of the Communications Act of 1934 is amended by inserting at the end thereof the following:

"Appearance by a legally qualified candidate on any newscast, news interview, news documentary, on-the-spot coverage of news events or panel discussion, shall not be deemed to be use of a broadcasting station within the meaning of this subsection."

"Sec. 2. (a) The Congress declares its intention to reexamine the amendment to section 315(a) of the Communications Act of 1934 made by the first section of this Act, at or before the end of the three-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, to ascertain whether the remedy provided by such amendment has proved to be effective and practicable.

(b) To assist the Congress in making the re-examination of the amendment made by the first section of this Act, the Federal Communications Commission shall make a report to the Congress, within 15 days after the close of the year beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act and within 15 days after the close of each of the following two years, setting forth (1) the information and data used by it in determining questions arising from or connected with such amendment, and (2) such recommendations as it deems necessary to protect the public interest and to assure equal treatment of all legally qualified candidates for public office under section 315 of the Communications Act of 1934. "